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Mao strips all titles from Teng

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PEKING—Chinese Communist Party Chairman Mao Tse-tung stripped First Deputy Premier Teng Hsiao-ping of all his titles yesterday and named acting Premier Hua Kuo-feng to the posts of premier and first vice chairman of the party.

The moves, which the official news agency Hsinhua said had been proposed by Mao himself, were approved by the party's Politburo after Monday's "counter-revolutionary" protests in Peking's Tien An Men Square.

They effectively make Hua, a native of Hao's home province of Hunan, the second most important man in China and Hao's designated successor.

Hua, 56, was minister of security and a political unknown to Western observers when Mao unexpectedly named him acting premier Feb. 7.

Teng, who had been groomed by the late Premier Chou En-lai as his successor, lost his vice premiership, his party vice chairman's post and his job as chief of staff of the Chinese army.

For Teng, 72, it was his second fall from grace. He had been purged during the Cultural Revolution of 1966-69 for "rightist" tendencies, and restored to favor by Chou in 1973.

After Chou died, however, a campaign denouncing him as a "capitalist roader" — one who preferred pragmatic policies to ideological ones and stability to revolutionary fervor — was initiated by leftists and apparently supported by Mao.

Yesterday's actions were a victory for the radicals, led by Mao's wife, Chiang Ching, who believe that economic progress must be subordinated to the class struggle.

A few hours after the changes were announced, thousands of troops assembled in Tien An Men Square. Thousands of civilians shouted slogans and played music in celebration of Hua's promotion. Otherwise, the capital was calm.

It was clear that the promotion had

been spurred on by Monday's demonstration in the square, in which three vehicles and a building were set ablaze. That demonstration, ostensibly caused by the removal of memorial wreaths for Chou, was interpreted as a reaction against the anti-Teng campaign, with its implied criticism of Chou's policies.

A party Central Committee resolution published by Hsiao-ping yesterday said, "Having discussed the counter-revolutionary incident which took place at Tien An Men Square and Teng Hsiao-ping's latest behavior, the political bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China holds that the nature of the Teng Hsiao-ping problem has turned into one of antagonistic contradiction.

"On the proposal of our great leader, Chairman Mao, the political bureau unanimously agrees to dismiss Teng Hsiao-ping from all posts both inside and outside the party while allowing him to keep his party membership so as to see how he will behave himself in the future."

The resolution was also broadcast by Radio Peking, monitored in Hong Kong.

After the resolution, the station broadcast the text of an article in the Chinese Communist Party newspaper, The People's Daily, reportedly written jointly by workers, peasants, soldiers and the daily's correspondents.

It charged that "in early April, a handful of class enemies, on the excuse of paying homage to (the late) Premier Chou En-lai, created a counter-revolutionary incident in a

premeditated, planned and organized way.

"They openly made reactionary speeches, put up reactionary poems and slogans, distributed reactionary handbills to instigate the formation of a counter-revolutionary organization ... (and) put up flags in support of Teng Hsiao-ping."

The People's Daily article accused the "counter-revolutionaries" of attacking Chairman Mao and attempting to split the Central Committee. It said, "A very small number of bad persons" were responsible for "stirring up troubles," adding that most of the 100,000 people who gathered in the square were "passers-by who came to watch what was happening."

Expected priorities

A homely, rangy man with an easy sense of humor, Hua is expected to continue the Chou and Mao policy of opposition to the Soviet Union and rapprochement with the West in international affairs.

Domestically, his job will be to carry out Chou's plans for industrialization but to maintain radical reforms in education, science and other areas, which Teng is said to have rejected.

His expertise as an agriculturist — he delivered the keynote speech at an important conference on agriculture and made his mark by carrying out successful irrigation projects in Hunan — will help him in a thankless and difficult job.

Among the posts he held in Hunan were the vice governorship (from July 1958 until 1967) and he was known as a specialist on economic questions.

Hua came under attack from the Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution, but this did not prevent his becoming vice chairman of Hunan's Revolutionary Committee in April 1968.

He was made a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee in 1969 and became chairman of Hunan's Revolutionary Committee and later, first secretary of the province's party organization, a post he held in 1970.

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Investigative post

Hua went to Peking in 1971, to head the investigation into the alleged plot by Defense Minister Lin Piao to assassinate Mao. After that, he was named political commissar of the important Canton military region in November 1972. In August of the next year, he was chosen as a member of the Chinese Communist Party Politburo.

In January 1975, Hua became minister of public security, one of China's most important posts. At the same time, he was promoted to vice premier, and took an active role in preparing China's fifth economic plan.

With his new title of first party vice chairman, Hua has overtaken the man who formerly came right after Chou, Wang Hung-wen, a former Shanghai textile worker who is one of the best-known members of the "radical" wing of the party.

Observers felt that Hua's appointment was a compromise between "moderates" and "radicals" in the Chinese leadership in that a "centrist" replaces Chou, who was also regarded as a man of the center.

Stabilizing influence

George Bush, director of the CIA and former envoy to China, said in Washington that he believed U. S.-China relations "will not be adversely affected" by the leadership changes. He said the elevation of Hua "should have a stabilizing influence" on the country.

The Soviet news agency Tass reported the changes without comment.